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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,681	07/13/2001	Kenneth John Davey	90017	4801

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EXAMINER

CYGAN, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2855

DATE MAILED: 08/22/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/905,681

Applicant(s)

DAVEY, KENNETH JOHN

Examiner

Michael Cygan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,10,20,22-24 and 29-38 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 30-38 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,10,20,22-24 and 29-38 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Note that claims 8, 9, 11-19, and 25-28, which were listed as "Withdrawn" in the amendment filed 28 July 2003, were cancelled on page 1 of the amendment of 13 February 2003.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, 20, 22, 23, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Haupt (US 4,344,320). Haupt discloses the claimed invention, including an apparatus having a pressurized helium gas source, structure having internal cavities [4_n], communication channel connecting source and cavities, and a differential pressure gauge [15] surrounding a flow impedance [14] for monitoring changes in the steady state rate of inflow of helium into the cavities, where the pressure is disclosed to be such that the cavities are pressurized (forces such as hygroscopic and capillary are thus inherently overcome) but not so as to result in destruction of the cavities. A method is also disclosed where the abovedescribed apparatus is provided and the steady

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state rate of inflow of helium into the cavities is monitored. See entire document, especially columns 3-6 and Figures 3 and 7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 6 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haupt (US 4,344,320) in view of Schulte (US 5,390,533). Haupt discloses the claimed invention except for the provision of a moisture trap between helium source and cavities. Schulte teaches the provision of a moisture trap [50] between a helium source [e.g., 42] and cavities in a system [10] and method for pressurizing a vessel for integrity testing with gas comprising reused and dried helium (see abstract and column 4, lines 14-48). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a moisture trap between helium source and cavities as taught by Schulte in the invention taught by Haupt to dry the entering helium gas, since this would remove water from the gas which could interfere with flow rate or mass spectrometric (Haupt analyzer [10]) measurements.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 28 July 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that certain features of the Haupt reference as described at column 5 preclude a high impedance allowing only a miniscule flow due to the exit throttle 11. However, the embodiment of Haupt employed in the rejection is found at column 6, and does not use an exit throttle, instead using sealed tubes. The impedance is inherently "sufficiently high" such that the detected flow is "miniscule" compared to that of an open tube; note the discussion of detection of cracks in a sealed piping system at column 4 line 52 through column 5 line 3. Additionally, the tubes form inherent internal structural cavities, since the tube structure is the structure desired to be monitored for cracks.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).
6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-**

MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Cygan whose telephone number is 703-305-0846. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6 M-Th, alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Lefkowitz can be reached on 703-305-4816. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Cygan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Cygan
Examiner
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